

Message Text

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TAGS: OEXC, CZ

SUBJECT: RESEARCH TOPIC OF IREX SCHOLAR SELDEN E. BRIGGS

1. WE LEARNED RECENTLY THROUGH A THIRD (US) PARTY THAT THE PURPOSE OF BIGGS' RESEARCH HERE WAS A STUDY OF CZECHOSLOVAK SHOW TRIALS, AND NOT WHAT HE OFFERED AS HIS FORMAL TOPIC, I.E. "IMPACT OF INDUSTRIALIZATION AND INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGIES ON THE ORGANIZATIONAL LIFE OF SEVERAL CZECH WORKING-CLASS COMMUNITIES IN THE PRAGUE REGION DURING THE LAST PART OF THE NINETEENTH AND THE FIRST PART OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURIES." IN DISCUSSING THIS WITH BRIGGS YESTERDAY HE ADMITTED HIS ACTUAL PURPOSE, AND SAID HE WAS SHORTLY PROCEEDING TO LONDON, PARIS AND ROME TO INTERVIEW PELIKAN, LONDON AND OTHERS FOR MORE INFORMATION. HE THEN INTENDS TO RETURN TO PRAGUE FOR AN ADDITIONAL MONTH TO TRY FOR ACCESS TO ARCHIVAL MATERIAL ON HIS REAL TOPIC.

2. BIGGS SAID THAT SO FAR HE HAS DONE NO DIRECT RESEARCH ON HIS REAL TOPIC, CONCENTRATING INSTEAD ON BACKGROUND WHICH COULD ALSO FALL UNDER HIS STATED "FORMAL" TOPIC. HE SAYS HE HAS BEEN WORKING ON HIS REAL TOPIC FOR FOUR YEARS, AND CLAIMS IREX WAS FULLY AWARE OF WHAT IT WAS.

3. WE ARE OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED ON A NUMBER OF POINTS RE THIS MATTER, PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE IT COULD SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZE OUR EFFORTS TO INCREASE EXCHANGES IN THE HUMANITIES FIELD, IF NOT THE ENTIRE IREX PROGRAM ITSELF. WE ARE ALSO DISTRESSED TO FIND OURSELF IN UNWITTING SUPPORT OF A SCHOLAR WHO

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MISREPRESENTED HIS INTERESTS, AND WHO HAS INVESTED SO MUCH

TIME AND EFFORT THAT HE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY PUBLISH DESPITE ANY
ADVISE TO THE CONTRARY. FYI: HIS HARVARD ADVISOR IS KARL
DEUTSCH.

4. WE SOLICIT THE DEPARTMENT'S SUGGESTIONS IN THIS MATTER,
AND IN MEANTIME PROPOSE THAT IREX BE ASKED TO CONTACT BIGGS
IN ROME, PARIS OR LONDON AND EITHER RECALL HIM OR CONVINCE
HIM NOT TO RETURN TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

5. ADVISE.
PERRY

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